

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-07

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BANGKOK FOR RED

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TAGS: ECA, SGEN, SPOP

SUBJECT: ECA - REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR AFRICA ON INTEGRATION OF
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 3 - 7, ADDIS ABABA

SUMMARY: SEMINAR PRODUCED PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN REGION FOR
IMPLEMENTATION BY GOVERNMENTS AND UN SYSTEM. FOR FULL INTEGRATION
OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN NEXT DECADE, PLAN RECOMMENDED NEW RE-
GIONAL MACHINERY AND SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION, POPU-
LATION, HEALTH NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICES, LEGISLATION AND AD-
MINISTRATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND MASS MEDIA IN INTEGRATED APPROACH
BY GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL ELEMENTS.

1. SEMINAR JOINTLY SPONSORED BY ECA, UNFPA, AND THE UN CENTER
FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UNCSDHA) FOR
PURPOSE OF FOCUSING ATTENTION ON URGENT NEED TO FULLY INTEGRATE
WOMEN IN TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. FOLLOWED SIMILAR MEETING FOR
ECAFE REGION HELD IN BANGKOK MAY 10- 14.

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2. TWENTY-SIX AFRICAN COUNTRIES, ATTENDED WITH OBSERVER DELEGATIONS FROM FRANCE SPAIN, FRG, SWITZERLAND AND USA, AND SEVEN NGO'S.

3. PARTICIPANTS INVITED TO FORMULATE PLAN OF ACTION FOR NEXT DECADE TO BE OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION OF MEMBER STATES IN AFRICAN REGION, ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS. OAU, UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND NGO'S. RECOMMENDED SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY IN FORM OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT, WOMEN'S BUREAU'S OR PERMANENT SECRETARIATS OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMISSIONS, AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE (REGIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN'S COMMISSION) AS PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTS TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM.

4. ACTION AREAS THAT GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO RURAL WOMEN INCLUDE: EDUCATION AND TRAINING; EMPLOYMENT AND EQUAL PAY; HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL SERVICES; LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES (INCLUDING FAMILY LAW AND LEGAL CAPACITY OF MARRIED WOMEN); AND DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH PROGRAM. PROGRAM INCLUDES SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS AND MASS MEDIA AS AREA DESIGNED TO CHANGE ATTITUDES AND AID IN FORMULATION OF NEW ROLE FOR WOMEN.

5. PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN REGION IS RESULT OF CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE PLANNING BY ECA WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIVISION AND REPRESENTS FIRST REGION-WIDE EFFORT. COULD WELL SERVE AS MODEL FOR OTHER REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF UN SYSTEM WHERE CONCERNS OF WOMEN OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE AND RECEIVE LOW PRIORITY.

6. ALTHOUGH UNCSDHA AGENDA FOR MEETING STRESSED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ASPECTS OF POPULATION PROBLEM, PARTICIPANTS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN ISOLATION. DELEGATES INSISTED ON DISCUSSING SUBJECT IN CONTEXT OF TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WHERE POPULATION TREATED AS ONE ELEMENT IN INTEGRATED REGIONAL APPROACH TO TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT WHERE ALL ELEMENTS (I.E., HEALTH, NUTRITION, CHILD CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF WORK, EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVEMENT IN LEGAL POSITION OF WOMEN) GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT AND IMPORTANCE AND WHERE WOMEN GIVEN EQUAL ACCESS TO POLICY AND DECISION MAKING ROLE IN FORMULATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS. IN POPULATION AREA, PARTICIPANTS AGAIN REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT OF MEN AS WELL AS WOMEN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL ASPECTS OF EFFORTS TO CURTAIL POPULATION GROWTH.

7. USDEL RECOMMENDS THAT ANY FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN POPULATION AREA GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THIS VIEW SINCE IT REPRESENTS OVERWHELMING SENTIMENT DELEGATES TO BOTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN MEETINGS OF THIS SERIES. ANY OTHER APPROACH APPEARS TO CONTAIN SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACHIEVEMENT US OBJECTIVES IN POPULATION PROGRAM PARTICULARLY THOSE DIRECTED

TO WOMEN.

8. US PARTICIPATION WELCOMED AND USDEL ADVICE SOUGHT FREQUENTLY IN FORMULATION OF ACTION PROGRAM. US PRESENCE AT MEETING VIEWED AS EXPRESSION OF US CONCERN FOR AFRICAN WOMEN.

9. UNCSDHA PERSONNEL ADMINISTERING PROGRAM SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM FOR LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN WOMEN'S ISSUES, HASTY, INADEQUATE PREPARATION FOR MEETING AND ABSENCE OF HEAD OF UNCSDHA BRANCH WHO IS LEADING AUTHORITY ON SUBJECT. FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICANS CRITICAL OF ABSENCE OF KEY DOCUMENTS IN LANGUAGE WHICH THEY REGARDED AS DISCRIMINATORY GESTURE.
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